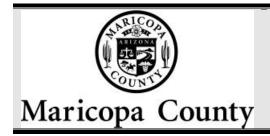
for immediate release





ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL 2323 S. 35th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85009 pets.maricopa.gov

November 7, 2002 For more information, contact Julie Bank at (602) 506-3471, pager (602) 229-3879.

AC&C ENCOURAGES YOU TO ADOPT AN ANIMAL RATHER THAN PURCHASE ONE DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

(PHOENIX)- Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (AC&C) is joining hundreds of animal organizations across the country in the "Home for the Holidays" campaign. "Home for the Holidays" is designed to ensure no animal stays homeless during the holiday months.

"The holiday season is a time when families consider adding a new pet to their homes," says Ed Boks, AC&C Director. "We are encouraging the community to save a life by adopting their new pet at an animal shelter rather than purchasing one from a pet shop."

Some pet shops that sell animals get their animals from puppy mills where the animals are over-bred, kept in inhumane conditions, and not socialized to humans. Animal shelters have thousands of homeless animals looking for new families. "Most people don't realize that 25% of the animals that come into our facilities are pure breds," says Ed Boks. "So, whether you are seeking a purebred, or just a lovable kitty or mutt please visit any of the three pet adoption centers across the valley".

Gift certificates for adoption and pictures of adoptable pets are available on-line at pets.maricopa.gov.

Adoption Center Locations:

East Valley 2630 W. 8th Street, Mesa West Valley 2323 S. 35th Ave., Phoenix Pet Adoption Center, 5231 N. 35th Ave., Phoenix